

CAPTAIN EDWARD C. CALLAHAN
UNITED STATES NAVY

NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

Edward Cooper Callahan was born in Dallas, Texas, on August 11, 1906. He attended Fremont High School, Oakland, California, and had advanced instruction at the University of California, Extension Division, and Lincoln University, San Francisco. Prior to entering Naval Service, he was employed by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, 1924-1929, and until 1941 was Broadcast Engineer for the National Broadcasting Company, Stations KGO and KPO, San Francisco. During this period he was a member of the Volunteer Communication Reserve in the Twelfth Naval District, serving first as a Radio Operator and later as Officer in Charge of Unit ONE, Section ONE, Oakland, California.

Ordered into active naval service, as a Naval Reserve officer, he reported in June 1941 as Radio Officer and Communications Officer on board the USS MINNEAPOLIS. While aboard that heavy cruiser he saw action during the Battles of Midway, the Eastern Solomons and Tassafaronga and in the invasion of Guadalcanal. Between 1942 and 1944 he had consecutive duty as Staff Communications Officer, Task Force SIXTY-FIVE, Air, Solomon Islands and Fleet Air Command, South Pacific. For outstanding services while on duty in the Pacific Area, he received two Letters of Commendation with authorization to wear the Commendation Ribbon and Bronze Star.

He was next assigned as Electronics Training Officer at the Naval Air Technical Training Command, Chicago, Illinois and Pensacola, Florida. In 1946 he participated in the A-Bomb Test at Bikini as Officer in Charge of Radio Broadcast Facilities on the staff of Commander Joint Task Force ONE.

Released from active duty late in 1946, he returned to radio work and was associated with the West Central Broadcasting Company, Station WEEK, Peoria, Illinois. Again reporting for active naval service, this time as a U. S. Navy officer, he was assigned in November 1947 as Project Control Officer in the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department.

He attended the 1950-1951 course at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D. C. after which he was Deputy Director, later Director, of the Aeronautical Electronics and Electrical Laboratory at the Naval Air Development Center, Johnsville, Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1953 he was ordered to the Bureau of Aeronautics, to serve as Head of the Electronics Design Branch and from September 1955 as Assistant Director of the Electronics Division, now known as the Avionics Division.

In June 1957 he was assigned to the Naval Training Device Center, Port Washington, Long Island, New York as Commanding Officer and Director.

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PERSONAL DATA:

Born: Dallas, Texas, August 11, 1906
Parents: Emmet Clay (deceased) and Martha Edwards (Whatley)
Callahan

Education: John C. Fremont High School, Oakland, California;
University of California, Extension Division, San
Francisco; Lincoln University, San Francisco;
Naval School, Electronics, Bowdoin College,
Brunswick, Maine (1941-1942); Naval School, Radar,
Navy Research Laboratory, Anacostia, D. C. (1942);
George Washington University, Washington, D. C. (1949
1950); Industrial College of the Armed Forces (195
1951); Advanced Management Program, 28th Session,
Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Mass. (fall 1955)

PROMOTIONS:

Ensign, USNR, February 26, 1932
Lieutenant (jg), USNR, February 26, 1937
Lieutenant, USNR, August 1, 1941
Lieutenant Commander, USNR, May 1, 1943
Commander, March 1, 1944
Transferred from USNR to USN, November 18, 1947
Captain, to date from July 1, 1954

DECORATIONS AND MEDALS:

Letter of Commendation (Ribbon and "V"), CINCPAC
Letter of Commendation (Ribbon), ComSoPac Force and Area
Presidential Unit Citation (USS SUWANEE)
Naval Reserve Medal
American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
World War II Victory Medal
National Defense Service Medal

Letter of Commendation: (CINCPAC): "For meritorious conduct while serving as Radar Officer of the USS MINNEAPOLIS on the night of November 30-December 1, 1942, during the engagement with enemy surface forces off Tassafaronga, Guadalcanal. He furnished very valuable information essential to the Task Force Commander in maneuvering the force, in opening fire and subsequent thereto. Without his radar information contact with the enemy force might have

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been missed. While under fire, and after his vessel suffered severe and critical damage, he courageously remained at his post supplying ranges and bearings for main battery fire. During this time...he also ingeniously effected emergency repairs to the radar equipment, thus permitting its continual operations throughout the night, furnishing information vital to the conduct of his ship to a place of refuge..."

Letter of Commendation (ComSoPac Force and Area): "...As Communications Officer from December 19, 1942 until March 31, 1943, on the staff of Commander South Pacific Force and Area, serving Commander Task Force SIXTY-FIVE and Commander Air, Solomon Islands...He organized an efficient Flag Communications Office in the USS NASSAU and again in the USS SUWANEE on short notice under very adverse conditions...His initiative, knowledge of radar and keen interest in the performance of the equipment resulted in improved operations within the Task Force...He assumed the duties of Air Operations Communication Officer (at Guadalcanal), reorganized the message center, constructed an underground tunnel large enough to centralize all aircraft radio facilities, plus a filter center, maintaining one hundred miles of wire line on the field telephone system...reorganized the air warning systems, standardized all radar procedures, lent his technical assistance in installing equipment at Russell Islands, assisted in setting up the first Night Fighter Control in the combat zone, formulated standard systems for maintaining and checking aircraft recognition equipment, and improved the various radio navigational aids..."

Presidential Unit Citation. (USS SUWANEE): "For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy forces in the air, ashore and afloat...The SUWANEE's valiant record of combat achievement reflects the highest credit upon her courageous officers and men and upon the United States Naval Service..."

CHRONOLOGICAL TRANSCRIPT OF SERVICE:

Apr 1928	Feb 1932	Volunteer Communication Reserve, Twelfth Naval District (Radio Operator)
Feb 1932	Jun 1941	Volunteer Communication Reserve, Twelfth Naval District (Officer in Charge, Unit ONE, Section ONE, Oakland, California)
Jun 1941	Dec 1942	USS MINNEAPOLIS (Radio Officer and Communications Officer with collateral duty as Radar Material Officer) (Under instruction at Naval School, Electronics, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, Nov 1941 to Jan 1942 and Naval School, Radar, Navy Research Laboratory, Anacostia, D. C., Jan 1942 to Apr 1942)

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Dec 1942	Feb 1943	Staff of Commander Task Force SIXTY-FIV (Staff, Communications Officer)
Feb 1943	Apr 1943	Staff of Commander Air Solomons (Staff, Communications Officer)
Apr 1943	May 1944	Fleet Air Command South Pacific (Staff, Communications Officer and Radio- Radar Material Officer)
Jul 1944	Mar 1946	Naval Air Technical Training Command (Staff, Electronics Training Officer)
Mar 1946	Nov 1946	Staff of Commander Joint Task Force ONI (Officer in Charge, Radio Broadcast Facilities; participated in Bikini A-Bomb tests)
Nov 1946	Nov 1947	Inactive duty
Nov 1947	Jul 1950	Bureau of Aeronautics, Electronics Di- vision (Project Control Officer)
Aug 1950	Jun 1951	Industrial College of the Armed Forces (instruction)
Jul 1951	Jul 1953	Naval Air Development Center, Johnsvill Pennsylvania (Deputy Director, then Director (Jul 1952 to Jul 1953), Aero- nautical Electronics and Electrical Laboratory)
Jul 1953	Sep 1955	BUAER, Electronics Division (Head, Elec- tronics Design Branch and from Dec 1953 to Aug 1954 Acting Assistant Di- rector, Electronics Division)
Sep 1955	Jun 1957	BUAER, Electronics Division (Assistant Director)
Jun 1957		Naval Training Device Center, Port Wash- ington, Long Island, New York (Com- manding Officer and Director)

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